

Continuous  
News Service  
Since 1880

Volume 99, Number 26

# The Tech

MIT  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts

Tuesday, July 24, 1979

## Final frosh count unsure

By Gordon R. Haff

"Anywhere between 1000 and 1100 freshman could end up arriving in the fall" according to Director of Admissions Peter Richardson '48.

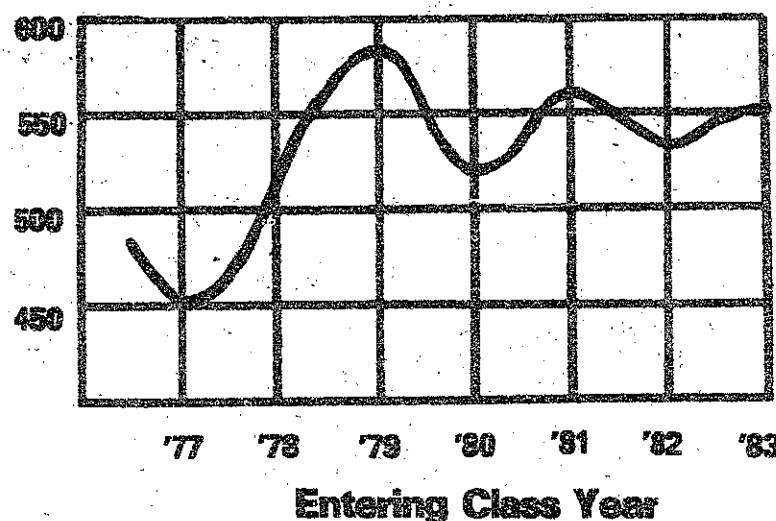
So far, 1084 freshman have indicated their intent to attend MIT in the fall — 34 more than the target of 1050 set by the Academic Council. Bonny Kellermann '72, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, predicted that the actual number will drop slightly by the end of the summer, bringing it closer to the 1050 goal.

Richardson emphasized that giving a definite number for the final class size would be pure guesswork. "We don't know until two weeks after they get here (exactly how many freshmen there are)."

The effect of the incoming class size on crowding in the dormitories remains to be seen. Robert Sherwood, Associate Dean for Student Affairs in Charge of Housing, was out of town and could not be contacted to comment on the matter. The effectiveness of the fraternity rush — particularly that of Zeta Psi, which is new this year — will also have a major influence on the housing situation.

As of the end of June, 217 women were planning to attend the Institute, a figure which is

Density of Freshmen  
(microfrosh / cubic meter)



down about 15 from last year's record. Richardson stated, however, that he does not think this is part of a trend.

The number of minority students, on the other hand, is up a little over last year to 109, 82 of whom are black.

Overall, Richardson said there were no major changes in admissions this year. He said "the striking thing is the stability. There are differences in classes. Things which were issues with classes four years ago are not issues now but this is more a sign of the times than of the people."

There were a few more applications this year than in previous

years bringing the acceptance ratio to about 35 percent. Richardson noted that this was a much higher ratio than at a school such as Harvard because there is "a large degree of self-selection (among MIT applicants)."

According to both Richardson and information derived from forms submitted to the Office of Freshman Advising by the freshmen over the summer, interest in engineering remains high among the incoming class. Richardson said that this was part of the up and down cycle which engineering has gone through for years.

## Dorm plans revived by anonymous grant

By Steven Solnick

A new west campus dormitory should be built and ready for occupancy by September of 1981, after receipt of a last-minute gift during Alumni week.

The project, which was still under postponement as late as May due to lack of funds, was saved by a grant of \$2 million secured from an alumnus who wished to remain anonymous. The gift was reportedly received during Commencement rehearsal on June 1.

The new dorm will be constructed according to the guidelines laid out in the January 1979 project planning report for a new dormitory. The report, entitled Next House, has since been converted into a Facilities Plan which gives the specifications for exact use of space facilities to be included in the building — including a dining hall.

This plan was submitted to the architects this week and construction is expected to start around April. MIT Vice-President Constantine Simonides complimented the work done by the student-faculty Next House planning group commenting, "If we had not started the effort this January we wouldn't be ready to go ahead as quickly now."

The \$10 million low-rise structure is being designed by the architecture firm of Sert-Jackson, the same architects who designed New House. When asked whether this implied the new dorm would emerge as New House II, complete with the architectural flaws often cited by New House residents, Senior Planner Reynolds Thompson of the Planning Office replied: "The reasons for dissatisfaction with New House arise more from the directions to the architect than from the architect's plan. The January group did specifically address the problems of New House and the instructions to the architect should solve these weaknesses."

The parking problem on West Campus created by the new dorm is also under study. Not only will residents of the new dorm require parking spaces, but the dormitory will be constructed on what is now the site of Tang parking lot.

Thompson indicated new parking would be ready, probably on Vas-sar Street, before construction begins. The only contingency he noted

might be the possibility of delaying the new parking until the following September if construction were to begin after the end of Spring term.

The \$2 million grant will finance the opening stages of construction. MIT President Jerome Wiesner told *The Tech* the donor would probably remain anonymous even after the dorm opened, thus starting speculation about the name of the new building. Wiesner commented that the dorm could conceivably be named after another benefactor if any further grants are received to offset the remaining \$8 million cost. According to Simonides, the incoming class size will probably rise to 1100 after completion of the dorm and the additional income from the new residents in the housing system should help finance the project.

## Church delegates argue scientific ethics

By Steven Solnick and Eric Sklar

"We may be more in the business of problem finding than problem solving." That quote, from MIT Professor of Nuclear Engineering David Rose, summed up the approach or the frustrations, of many participants at the World Conference on Faith, Science and the Future.

The Conference, which convened in Kresge Auditorium on July 12 is sponsored by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and is scheduled to conclude this evening. MIT is hosting the event, devoting most of West Campus as well as Walker Dining Hall to accommodate delegates, but is not formally a cosponsor.

The Conference brings together 450 delegates, of whom half are scientists while the remainder are theologians, social scientists and other leaders. Nearly as many accredited visitors, guests, and observers are also present. The meeting, called to examine scientific ethics, the just distribution of technological power and the relations between science and faith, has been referred to as the "most diverse ecumenical gathering in history."

The conference has also attracted a diverse crowd of demonstrators, objecting to everything from nuclear armament and the growth of transnational corporations to WCC activities in Rhodesia.

Plenary sessions have heard addresses on a variety of issues related to the general theme, including papers from three MIT computer scientists on the impact of computer technology on society. Meanwhile working groups have been preparing reports in specific areas (such as energy, Genetic Engineering, or Disarmament), for adoption by the full conference which will incorporate them into its final statement.

Many delegates, however, have complained that the conference has been "drowning in its own rhetoric" or that the "theme is too broad to yield concrete proposals for action."

One member of the conference's Steering Committee described this as the "struggle between the Doers (those who seek such concrete proposals) and the Inquirers (those who seek lengthy philosophical debates)." He also cited cultural differences as another source of confusion.

The most predominant of these is the clash between the Third World and the West.

One New Zealand scientist described this cultural clash: "If I want to apply my engineering knowledge to help the people in Ghana, what do I do? Who do I go to? ... We are talking on different planes." It is hoped by many that the twelve days of talks here may provide some foundation for future dialogue between these different cultures, as well as between scientists and clergy.

This confusion has produced doubts that the conference will actually be able to "gel" and produce concrete strategies for action. Some hope the final report will serve primarily to clarify the issues involved. Said one leader, "We may emerge still confused — but on a higher level." One science student was more critical: "All that is produced in plenaries is sleep... in large quantities."

Science students concluded a preliminary conference of their own at Wellesley College prior to joining the main conference here. Nearly 100 students from 55 nations participated. Their final draft report included a number of concrete proposals for action, such as: a Nuclear Weapons-Free Pacific; a moratorium on military and civilian applications of nuclear power; regulations on the advertising industry for "creating wants where needs do not exist"; the organization of Trans-

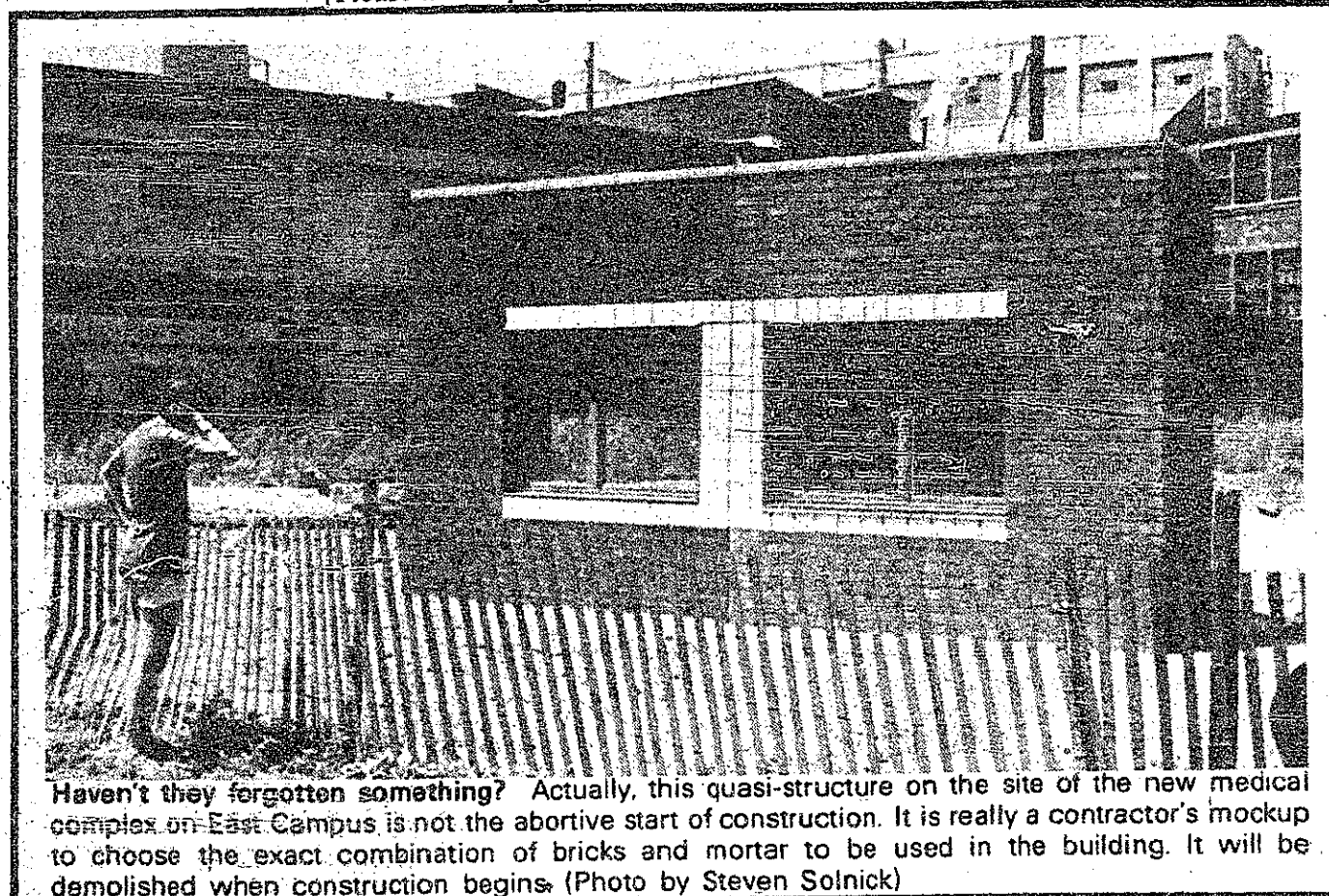
(Please turn to page 2)

The Dean's Office is undergoing a personnel shuffle this summer as Assistant Dean Alice Seelinger resigns her post and someone to fill the deanship vacated by Carola Eisenberg a year ago is still being sought. Page 2.

Construction is underway on a new indoor athletic center at

MIT to be completed in the fall of 1980. Page 12.

This issue of *The Tech* was produced by Eric Sklar '81, Katy Gropp '80, Tom Curtis '80, Michael Taviss '81, Cindy Delfino '81, J. Spencer Love, Gordon R. Haff '79, Steve Solnick '81, Stephanie Pollack '82, David Thompson '78, Pandora Berman.



Haven't they forgotten something? Actually, this quasi-structure on the site of the new medical complex on East Campus is not the abortive start of construction. It is really a contractor's mockup to choose the exact combination of bricks and mortar to be used in the building. It will be demolished when construction begins. (Photo by Steven Solnick)



# Dean's office reorganizes

By Steven Solnick

Personnel reorganization throughout the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs (ODSA) have taken place over the course of the summer, but the search for a new dean is still inching ahead slowly.

The DSA post, which was left vacant after the resignation of Dean Carola Eisenberg last August, has been filled temporarily by Associate Dean Robert Halfman.

According to Professor of Physics Anthony P. French, chairman of the advisory committee on the new dean, prospective candidates for the post are still being interviewed. French said he hoped a list of between two and six names could be forwarded on to Chancellor Paul Gray by mid-August. There is a strong chance the new dean could be chosen by R/O Week, however the exact timing of the transition could be determined by whether the appointee is currently a member of the MIT community and whether he or she has any commitments to their current post.

Elsewhere in the Dean's office, staff changes are led by the surprise resignation from the ODSA of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Alice Seelinger. Seelinger, who had been an administrator in the Residence Program told *The Tech*: "After seven years at the Deans' Office, it was time to go on to something else." She added, "Working with the Office of Freshman Advising and the Counseling Office is just not my thing. . . . There was nothing there that grabbed my fancy."



Associate Dean Alice Seelinger. (Photo by Steven Solnick)

Seelinger is on vacation until August 1, at which time she will go on leave for up to a year while looking for a new job. She said she would be looking within MIT where she has been for the last 23 years, but would consider leaving the Institute if a suitable opportunity did not arise here.

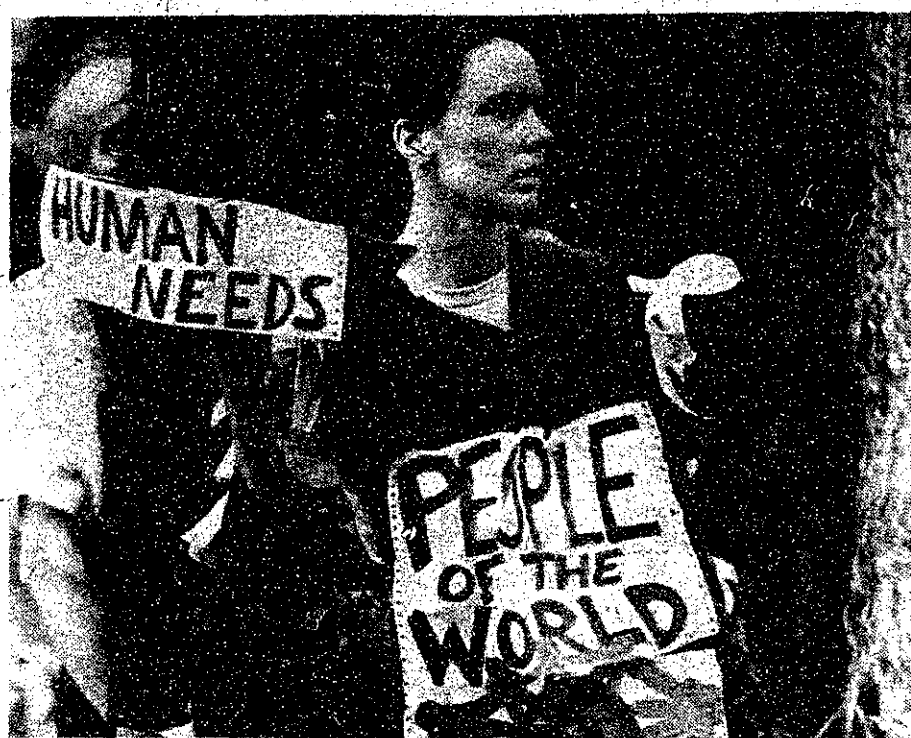
Vice-President Constantine Simonides, who conducted a review of the Deans' Office last year and continues to supervise the ODSA until a new dean is found, commented that "nobody can replace Alice."

He did, however, indicate that the Residence Staff for next year is in place. Administrative Assistant Lisa Kunstadter has left MIT to attend business school; she is replaced by Barbara Chuck. Steven Immerman will take over by August as the Business Advisor to Fraternities and Independent Living Groups, a new post created by the ODSA review.

In the new branch of the ODSA christened Student Assistance Service (SAS), Eugene Chamberlin, currently Foreign Students Advisor in the Admissions office, will become Associate Dean and International Student Advisor. Robert Randolph has been named new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and will divide his attention between Counseling Services and the Resident Program. Finally, Simonides confirmed that Robert Halfman, now acting Dean for Student Affairs, will return to his former post as Associate Dean for Counseling after the arrival of a new dean.

Sources indicated that staff changes were also likely to be announced in the Office of Freshman Advising before the end of the summer.

# Scientific ethics debated



The meeting of the World Council of Churches attracted others, also concerned about world problems. (Photo by Gordon R. Haff) (Continued from page 1)

national Unions to check the power of transnational corporations; support for the Nestles boycott; opposition to both Zimbabwe Rhodesia and the support of South African apartheid by transnationals; and a reorientation of science education to discourage the creation of a scientific elite. They added a swipe at the conference structure charging, "Those who pay for this conference determine its direction."

The reaction to the science students' report was described by one delegate as one of "intimidation" — that is, students choose to ignore the problems of the world until they become acute.

Joseph Egan '79, Rose's former advisee, replied by citing an essay written by applicants to MIT which named the internal combustion engine as mankind's single greatest achievement (contrasted to a musci student who replied "the ability to love"). Egan stated, "Science must be viewed as a social process."

His view, that science can no longer be divorced from its effects on the world, is the only clear consensus to emerge from the early stages of the conference. The implications of this, however, vary. Many leading scientists, while avoiding the impression that a technological utopia lurks in the future, seem to be searching for a new "ecological perspective."

Australian biologist Charles Birch described this world-view which unifies science and faith as "embracing the oneness of nature, humanity and God." The opposite, antisience, extreme was summarized by Brazilian philosopher Ruben Alves who stated, "Technology is a dragon... to be killed."

Some delegates, however, simply feel the dialogue itself is valuable. "Scientists are the high priests of today," declared WCC Secretary-General Philip Potter at the opening plenary. "Perhaps at last both the scientist and the clergyman have become humble enough to talk."



MIT Chancellor Paul Gray welcomes the delegates of the World Council of Churches in the opening session on July 12. (Photo by Eric Sklar)

# Fiedler death ends a tradition

By Eric Sklar

This year Arthur Fiedler failed to conduct a Fourth of July concert on the Esplanade. Fiedler spent the evening at home in bed listening to a radio broadcast of the event, which was led by Harry Ellis Dickson, Assistant Conductor of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. Joining Fiedler in absentia were the 1812 Overture and its accompanying church bells, artillery and fireworks.

Fiedler had conducted concerts on the Esplanade since July 4, 1929, when he initiated the first series of summer outdoor concerts played by musicians from the Boston Symphony. But this year his health, which had been steadily declining, was too poor to allow his appearance.

The fireworks were canceled by the Metropolitan District Commission because of crowd control difficulties in the past. This year, however, the crowd of approximately 50,000 was relatively well

behaved and reinstatement of the fireworks for next year is "under consideration," according to Ed Bridges, Public Information Officer for the MDC.

Within a week of the concert on the Fourth, Arthur Fiedler died. Although people were deeply saddened by the loss of the man who had become as much a folk hero as a musical celebrity, few were surprised. In a way Fiedler's absence from the concert on the Fourth was a form of death; the death of a tradition. As an effort to commemorate the many summers of music on the Esplanade Fiedler provided, a restaging of his most popular concert, the presentation of July 4, 1976, was hastily arranged for the evening of July 15.

The organizers of the concert expected that the event would be attended by 400,000 people, as had the concert of 1976, but the weather discouraged many people and only 150,000 attended. Over

100 people, in an effort to acquire good seating for the concert, camped out on the grass oval of the Esplanade the night before the event, and many more arrived very early Sunday morning. This concert included the 1812 Overture with fireworks, bells and artillery and the "crowd was pretty well behaved," according to Bridges.

When asked if the behavior of the crowd at the memorial concert had influenced the decision on the return of fireworks for next years Fourth of July concert, Bridges said that the experience would not have a negative influence, but might or might not have a positive one. In any case, he does not expect a decision until "next spring."

**Theta Chi**  
**Steak & Eggs**  
**Breakfast of Champions**  
**Sat., Sept. 1 8-11 a.m.**

Stop by and see us  
Cars will be waiting at campus dorms at 7:45am or call for a ride any time.

528 Beacon St. Boston

267-1801

## INDUSA PRODUCTS INC.

Offering Substantial Savings for Mattresses and Furniture.

Factory Showroom in Chelsea. I.D. required.  
College I.D. for students & faculty members accepted.

FACTORY PRICES DIRECT TO YOU

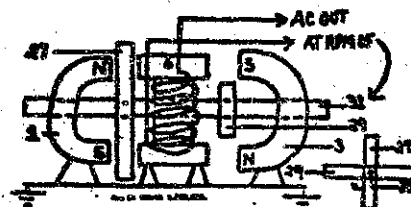
ALSO BUNKBEDS  
FRAMES  
HEADBOARDS

TWIN - FULL QUEEN  
\$69 \$92 \$124 AL 2PC SET

RECLINER \$89 2PC BED SET SOFA 135

SLEEPERS, COFFEE TABLE, LAMPS ETC  
DEL. ARRANGED

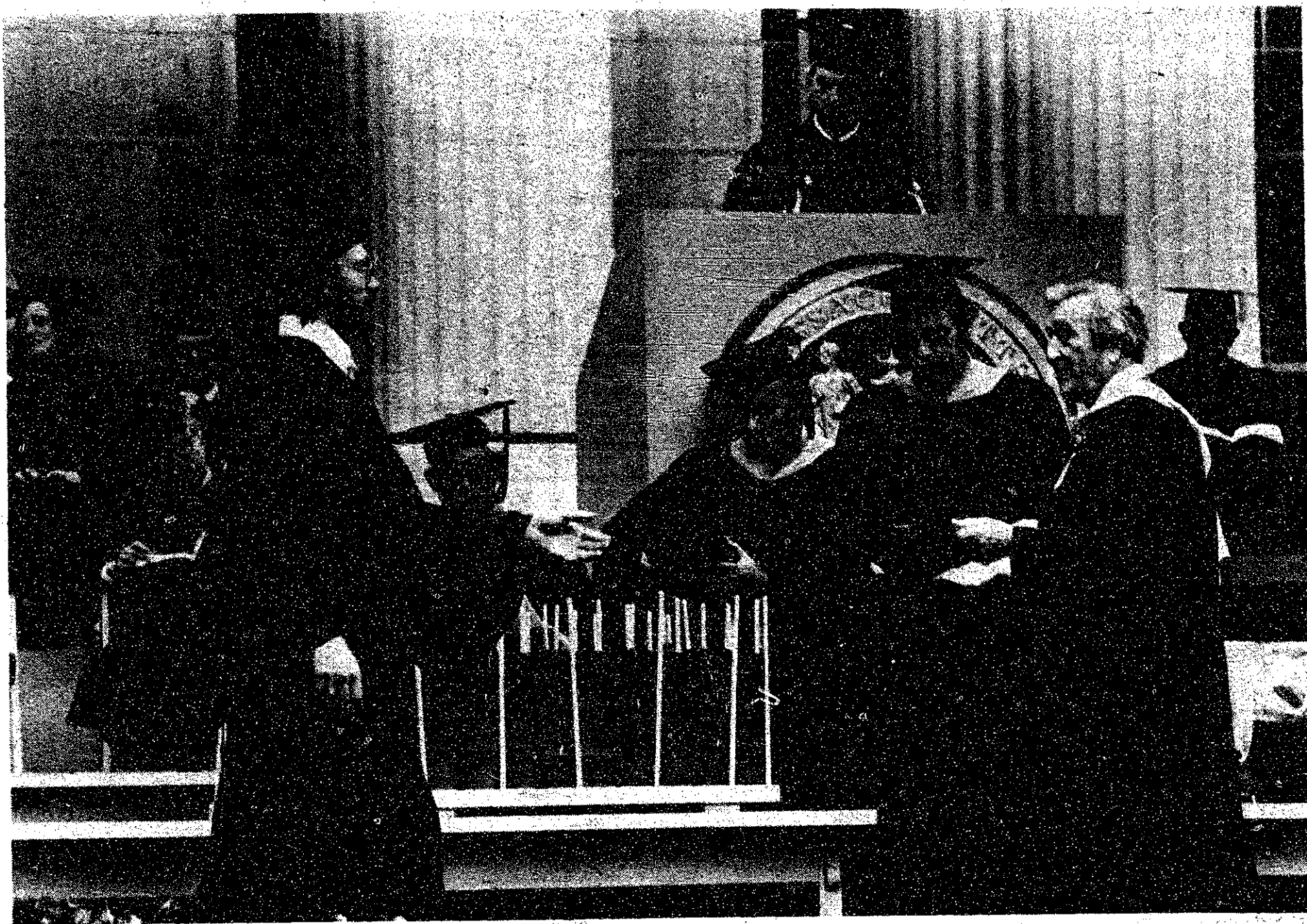
SHOW ROOM IN CHELSEA at FACTORY  
CALL 272-5813 & 542-7010



Notes: By no longer rotating the heavy armature a savings of up to 90 percent can be made. Turn 31 with a small electric motor run off a battery the SAG 6 charges. Ideal size for cars and to heat and light homes. Rotating 27 and 29 causes magnetic waves and scientists know of no wave phenomena from which we can't extract energy. There is no easy way known to divert or shield from gravitational fields. For details send a self addressed stamped envelope to J.W. Ecklin, 6143K Edsall Rd., Alexandria, VA. 22304.



# Commencement



Commencement is a rite of summer, even as we at *The Tech* say goodbye to our senior staff we are preparing to welcome their replacements from among the freshman class — your class. At the same time you are thinking about the coming year. You are no doubt wondering what you'll do with all of your copious free time.

Seriously, despite what you've heard about the workload at MIT there is plenty of time to devote to other things, such as extracurricular activities. Working for *The Tech* provides a perspective of the Institute which could not be obtained otherwise. Certainly no one can spend (or would want to spend) every waking moment studying, and the challenge of publishing the campus' only twice weekly newspaper is a stimulating and rewarding diversion.



*The Tech* is in its 99th year, with experience, facilities and resources that exceed that of any other campus publication. And although we are the 'established' newspaper, that does not mean that we are afraid to try new ideas or methods. This spring saw the first full color issue of any student paper in Cambridge. Not only was it a success, but we learned a great deal about the processes involved in printing color compared to printing black and white.

If you have any sort of journalistic experience at all, you already know that many different talents are necessary to produce a newspaper. If you have never known the joys of writing, editing, reviewing, PMTs, paste-up, publicity, pacesetters, photography, pizza & Pepsi, and plenty of other pleasurable pastimes we'd be pleased to show you. Watch for our mailing later in August. Have a good summer!

## TheTech

## opinion

## New experiences await freshmen

By Tom Curtis

To the members of the Class of 1983:

By now you have probably been deluged by at least two dozen tidbits of information from various MIT groups. Also, you have probably talked to a few people who have given you their opinions of the school. And no doubt you have gotten at least ten different impressions of MIT.

Someone has probably told you that MIT is "gnurd city." He probably painted a picture of a long procession of numbers eagerly pursued by students packing calculators and spouting Fortran.

You may be relieved to know that this is not an accurate picture of MIT. True, you will find that work here will require a lot more attention than work in high school did. It's also true that all the buildings and departments here are known by numbers. However, MIT is not a 24-hour-a-day grind; and students here are not inclined to spend all their time studying. In fact, there is considerable peer pressure not to study.

In some ways, the academic life at MIT is better than in high school. Classroom attendance is not required, and many students skip half their classes. You can usually pass a test with a grade below 50. In fact, I once passed a course with an 18.

Thus as you can see, MIT is not such a horrible place. But it's not paradise either.

By now you've probably looked through the *Freshman Handbook* and noticed a lot of pictures of smiling students. From appearances, you may think everyone here likes everyone else and the MIT community is just one big happy family.

This view is no more accurate than the first one. All the pictures of smiling students are there to persuade you to come to MIT. In reality, students here can get into heated arguments. In addition there are some very obnoxious people at MIT. Although living group cohesion is strong, MIT could hardly be called one big happy family as school spirit is almost nonexistent.

Don't get me wrong, people at MIT can be very friendly and helpful. However, MIT is not all smiles and togetherness; it is a real place with real people with real personalities.

Thus, in many ways, MIT is a lot like any other place you've been. However, there will be at least one big change when you get here.

For the first time in your life, you will be able to make all your own decisions without your parents looking over your shoulders. There will be a lot of decisions to make.

During your first week, you will be asked to choose what could become your living group for the next four years and your courses for the first semester. You will be pressured into signing up for activities and sports. You soon learn why it's called "rush week."

Being away from home will also open up many options for you. Living together, getting drunk, and getting high are all accepted on campus. However, let me again remind you that MIT is not a paradise. Student freedom is not unlimited and it is increasingly being abridged.

Until recently, everyone on campus was allowed to consume alcohol at MIT parties. Last semester, however, the legal drinking age in Massachusetts was raised to 20 at the request of Governor Ed King — a man who has earned a reputation as the students' number one enemy. The change in the drinking age means that some MIT parties no longer serve alcohol. It has also made it harder for anyone under 20 to buy alcohol in liquor stores or bars.

In addition, student freedom is being threatened from within MIT. For instance, it is current MIT policy to let all students choose whether or not to eat on a meal plan. However, a recent proposal would make a meal plan mandatory for residents of certain dormitories.

Finally, this column — like a lot of material you will get over the summer — is intended to let you know what to expect when you get to MIT. Remember, however, that no matter how much you read about MIT, you will never really know what the school is like until you get here. So keep an open mind and get ready for a unique experience.

## MIT ID numbers: invasion of privacy?

By Steven Solnick

Writing a column is not entirely unlike writing news. Both modes can be used to expose facts and provoke discussion. The primary difference, of course, is that the columnist, unlike the news writer, can choose to exercise, to use Prof. David Rose's choice phrase, "selective inattention." That is to say, he can place *emphasis*. I do not mean to imply, of course, that this newspaper has not suffered from its share of selective inattention over recent years. Indeed, sometimes we seem to reveal in it. But the columnist is in his right to report in this way.

In case all the freshmen haven't guessed, this is my first column for this paper. In the months to come, I hope to use the column to place the emphasis where it belongs — that is to say, on issues I consider important since this is, remember, my column. I'll try to be objective — usually. And I'll try to be brief.

Like this.

Just about the first thing that happens to freshmen when they get to MIT is the ceremony of receiving the ID Number. This all important figure will very literally haunt you throughout your MIT career and freshmen generally have it committed to memory even *before* they get here. How? Because the MIT ID number is identical with your Social Security Number (SSN).

Some freshmen think this is great since they only need to remember one number, their SSN. MIT thinks this is great since they don't need to worry about assigning unique numbers all the time — everyone who comes here already has a number — and besides they've been doing it this way for years. But MIT has been thinking about it. There is currently a report in the Chancellor's office which concludes MIT can indeed utilize ID numbers other than the SSN.

Why not use the SSN, you ask? There are three main reasons:

1) The MIT ID number is very visible. Librarians, nurses, fellow students reading class lists, Campus Patrolmen, anyone asking to see your college ID (for admission to movies, check cashing, student discounts)



## Finding a place to live at MIT

By Leigh J. Passman

Editor's note: Leigh Passman '81 is a member of an MIT fraternity and a Contributing Editor to The Tech.

Residence/Orientation (R/O) week can be an elating, exciting time making new friends, finding a place to live, and getting acclimated to the MIT environment. It can be equally frustrating and exhausting if things don't work out as you might hope. Undoubtedly the most pressing concern for freshmen first arriving on campus is the choice of a living group. There are over forty living groups, each with its own distinctive flare and flavor.

## Arrival

You will receive your temporary housing assignment in the R/O Center on the second floor of the Student Center. You may then leave excess baggage in a storage area in the Sala de Puerto Rico (next to the R/O Center); it is safe there and you can avoid dragging your possessions around until you know where you will be living. You may also lock a bike there.

## Getting Settled

Once you have been given a temporary room assignment, your best bet is to take whatever possessions you will be keeping directly to your room (especially if your parents are still around to

help carry them.) You will be given keys to your room, and linen at the dorm's desk.

If you are strongly considering the fraternities as a living group, it is to your advantage to tour the various dormitories before Friday's picnic; you may want Friday evening (Aug. 31) through Monday (Sept. 3), to concentrate your time and energy on the fraternities. Although it is not due until Monday, Sept. 3, the, the sooner you get your dorm preference card turned in, the less you will be preoccupied with it. It is important to have a back up should you not receive a fraternity bid.

## Dormitories

A word about dorm choices. This year's freshman class may exceed the optimal number for housing. Unless there is a strong fraternity rush, room crowding may be employed. Of the 1080 students in the class of 1981, 607 (65%) chose to live in dorms. Although 560 received their first choice, 113 (16%) were placed in crowded rooms (one additional person). Baker, Burton, MacGregor, and French House have been oversubscribed in the past. Many students willingly agree to be placed in crowded rooms (you will be able to so indicate on the dorm preference card) to improve their chances for the most coveted dorms.

## The Rush

R/O week officially commences Friday afternoon with the Freshmen Picnic. Immediately after the last welcoming speech, banner-toting representatives from each fraternity will rush Killian Court wisking away willing freshmen. Even if you are not considering the fraternities as a place to live, rush week is the time to meet people and have a blast — don't hesitate to participate in or attend the activities.

When you enter a fraternity, you enter an environment carefully prepared to impress you. Most fraternities spend the week before Rush Week performing maintenance work on their houses. Most houses will look their best during rush; likewise, cooks, food, and parties will be at their prime.

As you enter and leave frats and dorms, you will be repeatedly asked to sign in and out. At the R/O Center a terminal connected to the "Clearinghouse" computer system attempts to keep track of each student. The temporary dorm room you are assigned is recorded and during the fraternity rush, the frats are required to call Clearinghouse and update the movements of freshmen. The system facilitates the R/O Center in tracking you down in an emergency, but more importantly it permits fraternities interested in seeing you to locate you.

## Dividing Your Time

In visiting the fraternities, you must divide a limited amount of time. Although rush week extends through Friday, Sept. 7, most fraternity bids are extended Sunday and Monday. Some frats extend all their bids Sunday morning (the earliest they may) and are done with their rush unless many of their bids are turned down. If you have not visited a frat that you are interested in once or twice before Sunday, you may miss the boat.

It is generally agreed that five or six frats can be comfortably visited in the first two or three days of rush. Most frats select their prospective pledges on the basis of a majority or unanimous vote of its members, clearly the more members of a fraternity you meet, the greater your chances for support are. If you have spent several hours at a frat and don't feel you are getting anywhere, you probably should consider moving along to another fraternity.

## Flushing

This leads to another facet of fraternity rushing which can be upsetting and emotionally draining. Flushing is action by a fraternity to get you leave, or at least to

(Please see page 5)

Food for thought: Recently Former-Dean Alice Seelinger, when asked for her parting observations on the search for a new Dean for Student Affairs commented: "The new Dean should be a man. Men are in the minority in the Deans' office." Well, it's nice to see men are in the minority somewhere at MIT.



## Going too far, too fast

By J. Spencer Love

Each summer, the entering freshmen are inundated by letters, newspapers, notices, and booklets. This literature describes the joys of over 40 living groups, the surfeit of MIT's educational opportunities, and the difficulty of the course load. The barrage of words will abate somewhat after R/O week, but will continue throughout the stay at MIT. Almost every aspect of life at MIT is covered: the R/O packet every freshman receives on arrival even includes a booklet from the Medical Department describing reproduction, hygiene, venereal disease and birth control. However, on one subject there has been no coverage to date from our media: what will happen to your head when you get here.

This article addresses common problems that freshmen encounter. Much of it is explicitly directed towards freshmen, since they have a harder time sooner, but freshmen, parents and upperclassmen should read it too. You should read this article now, before R/O week, since some of you will encounter these problems the first day you are here.

### Universal Problems

Many of the social problems which MIT students encounter are universal among college students, particularly at coeducational schools. At MIT, a number of factors combine to exacerbate these problems. The pressure and heavy course load make it difficult to give problems the attention they deserve, and the male/female ratio makes some pathological situations common.

Social situations can be complex, and social skills must be learned. Few freshmen arrive socially adept, and some have had very little experience. Making mistakes is an inevitable part of learning, and some mistakes you have to make for yourself. When people are involved, the usual consequences of mistakes, such as time lost, expense, and feelings of shame can be compounded by feelings of guilt and betrayal. Nonetheless, involvement will be necessary sooner or later, and making your mistakes in school is better than making them in later life.

The first thing that will happen when you get here is that you will be plunged into a three day whirlwind designed to find you a place to live for at least the next year. Finding a reasonable place to live is critically important; the attitudes of your neighbors can have a long lasting and subtle effect on your personality.

### Freshwomen Beware

At the same time, a more insidious process will be taking place: the upperclassmen will be zeroing in on the freshmen, because they feel that R/O week offers the best, and perhaps the only chance for them to find a girlfriend, any girlfriend. Suddenly the center of attention, many women will be completely swept off their feet. This experience is the beginning of one of the worst aspects of being a woman at MIT. Because of the male/female ratio, the intensity of male pressure can turn what might be a pleasant experience into a nightmare. The pressure will never entirely cease, but it will be most intense at this time.

### Finding Companionship

Women at MIT have less choice in finding men than men have in finding women. Most undergraduate women want someone on their own level who can comprehend them but not belittle them. MIT men are the only easily available group that satisfies this constraint. It comes as a shock, therefore, that many MIT men will have nothing to do with "tech coeds", but instead prefer women who don't challenge them, whom they find at other area colleges. This situation is fortunate, however, since it decreases the number of MIT men who for reasons of opportunity or intellectual elitism are interested only in MIT women. Sorting out the men that are sincere will be difficult; there are too many of them, and they are too anxious to be believed.

### Countermeasures

There are several common methods freshmen use to cope with this situation. Some live in single sex living groups. This has a negative aspect: the only men they are likely to meet as "just friends" are the boyfriends who are living with their neighbors. Other women eventually find apartments off campus, which can effectively cut them off from other, desirable aspects of campus social life as well. Many revel in their new found opportunities and gather large collections of boyfriends; this method has two negative aspects: these women may be ostracized by people of either sex who are envious or sympathize with the men involved, and the men involved may be badly hurt by the experience. They are hurt because they feel that they have been "led on," and sometimes they have been, but some men are so desperate that they will feel led on if ignored or told to go away. There is no way not to hurt these men; they are hurting themselves. Some women acquire boyfriends as protection, because only the most persistent and overbearing suitors will try to encroach on an existing relationship.

A few such hastily formed relationships will be long lasting. Those that start out based on such

things as common interests, affection, and mutual trust have a better chance of lasting a long time. Although many people are interested in or even preoccupied with forming relationships, fewer are interested in long lasting ones, and few indeed are those who get involved with their eventual spouses first time around. Usually relationships end without undue pain, but occasionally people get seriously hurt. Personal problems caused by failing relationships can lead to academic difficulties, dropping out temporarily or permanently, transferring to another school, and, rarely, suicide.

Relationships fail for three general reasons: misunderstandings, parental pressure, and enlightenment. By misunderstandings, I mean disagreements in the expectations of two or more people. Communication is crucial.

### Parental Advice

Parental pressure can be hard to cope with when it approaches coercion. The advice I have to offer is for parents: when you send your son or daughter off to college, you can no longer supervise your child's life. You have raised your offspring the best you knew how; your child should now rely on his or her own judgment. Times have changed; if you don't approve of something your offspring does, you should constrain yourself to stating your point of view and its reasons, clearly, once. Since your child will know more about the situation that you will, try not to intervene directly unless you receive an explicit call for help.

This restraint is necessary to retain the trust of your son or daughter. If you ask your returning prodigal what he or she has been doing, and he or she lies to you, it is *your fault*. This situation could only arise if your child were afraid you would be unable to cope with the truth; lying in such situations is so widespread that condemning it is useless.

Enlightenment, more simplistically called "growing up," is a universal and often painful process. There are several common scenarios: finding out that the person you are involved with isn't quite who you thought s/he was, finding out that you aren't who you thought you were, finding out that you don't know where you're going or why you're here, and finding out that your current destination and location are not what you intend them to be.

There are no exceptions to this process; everybody grows up sometime. The feelings of bewilderment and shock that accompany these discoveries are bad enough, but disentangling yourself from commitments that you can no longer meet is what hurts others and makes you feel guilty.

### A fable

A relatively common example of the first kind of enlightenment goes like this: A young woman gets to college and meets a friendly, helpful upperclassman who showers her with attention and offers to help her cope with the system. She, perhaps unaccustomed to such treatment, becomes involved with him. He offers her things to do, someone to do them with, a ready source of answers, shelter from various social pressures, and, in general, security at a very confusing time. In turn, she offers him companionship, and, perhaps, the latest thing in Teddy Bears.

Now, turn the clock ahead a few months. She has learned the ropes, noticed other men who may be more interesting, and begun to realize that her boyfriend is a person with his own collection of strange faults. By this time, he may have grown bored with the relationship or he may have fallen head over heels for her.

### The moral

The point of this story is she fell for the shining armor rather than the knight inside. Chances are, her eventual feelings will approximately coincide with his, and they will live happily ever after, together or apart, as the case may be. However, sometimes it comes as a shock to one of them that the other doesn't reciprocate the one's feelings. This can produce a situation that is difficult to resolve without one or both getting hurt. Putting off dealing with such a situation in order to spare someone's feelings is tempting fate; things might get better, but they might get worse instead.

### Do unto others...

There are some fairly reliable ways to avoid difficult situations: always be honest with yourself and those who are important to you, and don't dive into anything too important too quickly. It is almost always better to deal with problems while they are still small, since problems tend to grow with time, and it is never worth attempting to identify the exceptions to this rule. If your relationship is too fragile to withstand a problem now, it is unlikely that it will get stronger faster than the problem will.

If this article keeps anyone from getting hurt, or helps someone get hurt a little less because they know what to expect, then it will have fulfilled its purpose. It is not intended to instill undue fears, but, like a driver education movie, it is intended to keep you from living too fast.

## Opinion

### Finding a living group where you will be happy

(Continued from page 4)

make it clear that you will not be bid. Flushing can be as subtle as being ignored by the frat members to as blatant as being told you would not fit in. Generally flushing will be discreet and polite. Members may suggest other fraternities where they suspect you might be happier, and may offer to transport you to them. Keep in mind that flushing should not and generally will not be vicious; it is only the fraternity's expression that moving along is in the best interests of both parties. Don't make it hard on yourself and try not to take it personally, for many a flush has sent people to other frats where they are truly happier.

### Activities, Competition, and Bidding

Most fraternities have activities on Saturday and Sunday (see *The Daily Confusion*), many away from their houses at parks or lakes. These provide a fun atmosphere in which to get to know more about the frat brothers. However, taking you away from the Boston/Cambridge area also takes up a lot of your time and makes you inaccessible to other frats. The Interfraternity Conference imposes a limit on the length of time a frat can have you away from their house. After

all the day's activities, the frat may invite you to stay overnight.

Fraternities can extend their first bid Sunday morning; bids cannot be accepted before Monday morning.

Bids are quickly extended and quickly accepted. Indeed last year over half of the nearly 400 freshmen who eventually pledged fraternities had done so by Monday night.

### Pledging

Fraternities are required to give you at least until Friday evening to accept their bid, and a very few fraternities place no time limit on their bid. Clearly, though, the sooner you give them the courtesy of a response, the sooner they will know how they stand in their effort to get a certain number of pledges.

Keep in mind that you should have a dorm preference card turned into the R/O Center by Monday in case you are not bid or choose to live in a dorm.

If you have any problems, questions, or complaints, contact the R/O Center, the IFC Rush Chairman, the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs of Housing, or even *The Tech*.

Finally, in spite of the many preoccupations of R/O Week, try to enjoy yourself!

**The Tech**

Steven F. Frann '80 — Chairman  
Thomas Curtis '80 — Editor-in-Chief  
Kathryn E. Gropp '80 — Managing Editor  
Pandora Berman '80 — Business Manager  
Bob Wasserman '80 — Executive Editor

Volume 99, Number 26  
Tuesday, July 24, 1979

### NEWS DEPARTMENT

News Editors: Bill Cimino '80, Gordon Hunter '80; Associate News Editors: Jay Glass '82, Richard Salz '82; Cartoonist: Kent Massey '81; Meteorologist: James Franklin '80; Staff: Ron Newman '79, Art Hsu '80, Kent Pitman '80, Richmond Cohen '81, Richard Duffy '81, Doug Klapper '81, Benson Margulies '81, Hans von Spakovsky '81, Elias Towe '81, Kate Williams '81, J. G. Harrington '82, Bruce Kaplan '82, Lenny Martin '82, Aaron Rapoport '82, Elaine Douglass G.

### PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

Night Editors: Stephanie Pollack '82, Jon von Zelowitz '82; Associate Night Editor: Marlon K. Weiss '80; Production Graphics Artist: Linda Schaffir '82; Staff: Thomas Chang '81, Cindy Delfino '81, Glenn Katz '81, Lina Janavicius '82, Dave Solo '82.

### PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Photo Editors: Charles F. Irwin '80, Steven Solnick '81; Staff: John Borland '80, James Jackson '80, Reggie Chen '82, Maryann Helferty '82, Marvin Hom '82, Colin Kerwin '82, Chris Moran '82, Kevin Osborne '82, Ken Schreiber '82, Richard Soley '82, Richard Tello '82; Photographic Consultant: David Tenenbaum '75.

### SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Sports Editor: Bob Host '81; Staff: Gregg Stave '79, Dennis Smith '81, Rich Auchus '82.

### ARTS DEPARTMENT

Arts Editor: David G. Shaw '81; Associate Arts Editor: Margie Beale '82; Staff: Bruce Nawrocki '79, Al Sanders '81, Dan Togasaki '81, Kevin Cunningham '82.

### BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Advertising Manager: Brenda L. Hambleton '79; Assistant Advertising Manager: John Hopper '79; Circulation Manager: John Muggeridge '80; Staff: Marcia Grabow '79, Elaine Imoto '79, Kathy Dutrow '80, Lynn Grabert '80, Doug Marden '81, Donald Gottfried '82.

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John Grunsfeld '80, Jordana Hollander '81, Leigh Passman '81, Eric Sklar '81, Michael Taviss '81; Indexing Project Representative: A. David Boccuti '79.

### SENIOR EDITORS

David Thompson '78, David Schaller '78, Lee Lindquist '79.

*The Tech* (ISSN 0148-9607) is published twice a week during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), weekly during January, and once during the last week in July for \$7.00 per year Third Class by *The Tech*, 84 Massachusetts Ave. Room W20-483, Cambridge, MA 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. ©1979 *The Tech*. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.





# The Boston Pop

The six howitzers fired in Charles River. The sky was accompanying Tchaikovsky's

This was The Boston's most popular concert, played by a conductor for fifty years who

The cold and rain may have deterred the memorial concert from prime locations on the oval, but a filled blanket to blanket the

The July 4th Esplanade. Boston tradition; Fiedler's over 400,000 people turned

Fiedler, the creator of the people of Boston. He will be seen walking in the city at the conclusion of the

Photo essay by Gordon Eric Sklar.



the Fourth of July and



# os on the Esplanade

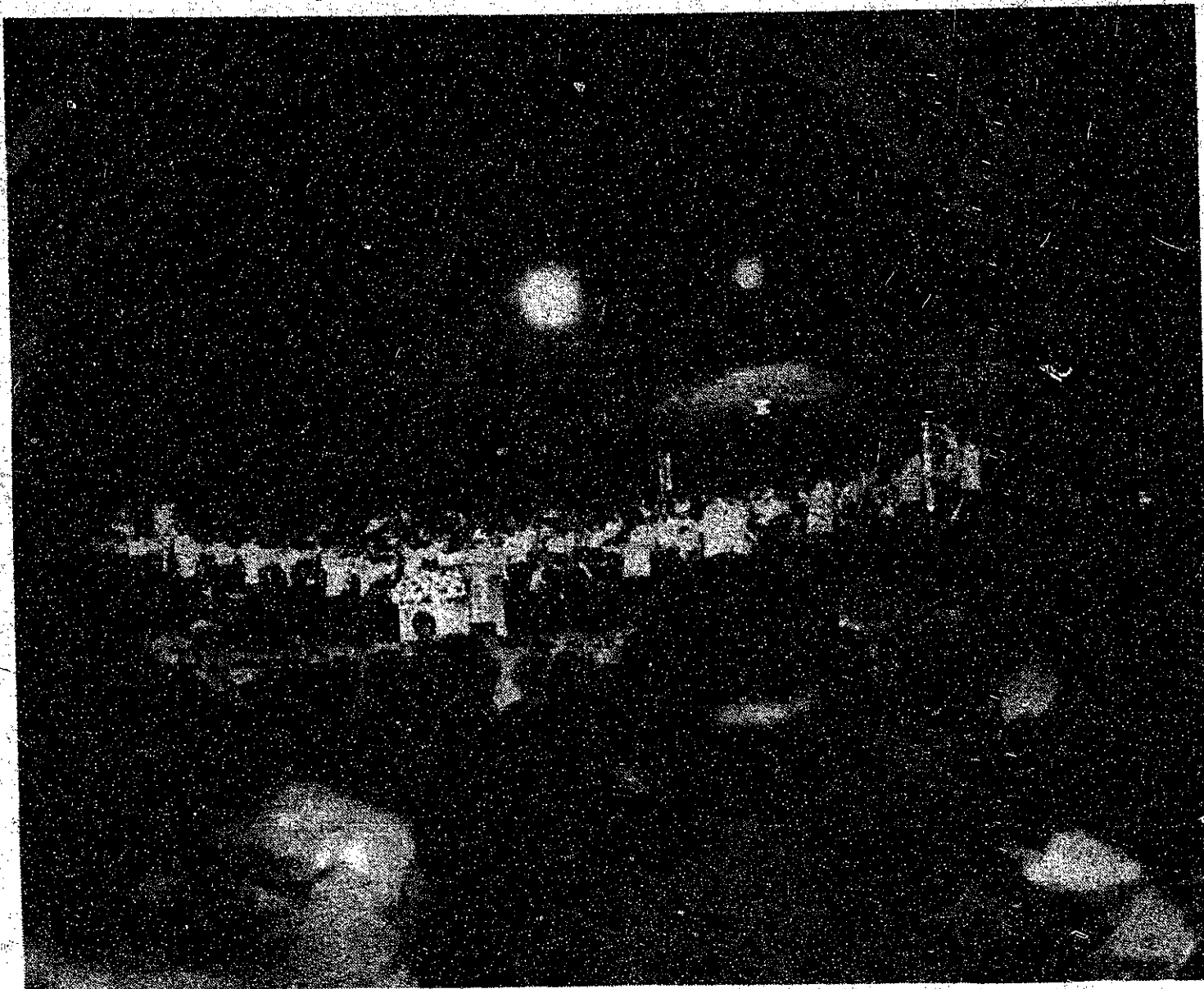
into the cold, low clouds which shrouded the  
s illuminated with green, blue, and red, ac-  
s 1812 Overture.

Esplanade Orchestra's reenactment of their  
yed in honor of Arthur Fiedler, their con-  
had died a few days earlier.

have stopped some, but 150,000 people at-  
cert. Some camped out overnight to get  
il in front of the Hatch Shell. The oval was  
efore noon.

concerts by the Orchestra have become a  
started them over fifty years ago. In 1976,  
out to see the Orchestra on the Esplanade.  
hese events, won't soon be forgotten by the  
ll certainly be remembered by those who  
arge crowds through a dark, mist shrouded  
he memorial concert.

R. Haff. Photos in upper and lower right by



## and the Fiedler Memorial



## arts

**In-laws, Muppet Movie, Meatballs are good fun**

By Gordon R. Haff

It is mid-summer. Newspaper and magazine readers, TV viewers, and movie goers are pounded incessantly by publicity for the summer's movie extravaganzas. However, since Manhattan, the amount of publicity for a movie has been inversely proportional to the film's quality.

*Dracula*, adapted (poorly) from the Broadway play, is one of the numerous attempts to transform that old Transylvanian legend popularized by Bram Stoker out of the 'B' horror movie class. Its producers would better to have left it there.

The film is confusing from the outset. Even a knowledge of the original novel is little use since the plot winds and twists down obscure paths which leave the viewer struggling to figure out what is going on.

Frank Langella, as Dracula, attempts to add a little charm and sex appeal to Stoker's thoroughly evil count. However, the precepts which made this concept successful on Broadway are not fully implemented on the silver screen. The movie *Dracula* takes itself altogether too seriously, employing none of the tongue-in-cheek humor which was so essential to the total view of the *Dracula* on stage.

Still, *Dracula* isn't totally without merit. Very few films which sport its cast and production budget are. It is slick, perhaps too slick. The acting is consistent, to very good at times. Laurence Olivier is excellent in his usual role, when not being a Shakespearean actor, of an aging German. Even Frank Langella does a very credible job of portraying Dracula, faulty as that character may be.

However, some effective photography sequences combined with some neat tricks and John Williams' music do not a movie make. I think that I'll stick to *Nosferatu*.

*Moonraker* is James Bond thrown into the space age — in more ways than one. It incorporates special effects which would have been impossible even just a few years ago.

Unfortunately, the film as a whole does not live up to the standards of its production team. Despite several brilliant sequences, the thread with which the movie is woven together is weak — it cannot hold together the high points.

*Moonraker* sinks to its lowest point when Jaws is reintroduced from *The Spy Who Loved Me*. The old Jaws was bad enough — treading the line between being a typical Bond villain and being ridiculous. The

reincarnated Jaws could seemingly survive anything short of a nuclear blast at twelve paces. To top it off, he falls in love in what might be rated as the hokiest scene in Bond history.

Finally, although Roger Moore in *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Moonraker* may almost equal Sean Connery, the other *Moonraker* characters are two — dimensional, even by James Bond standards. The villain Drax is so boring that it is hard to even dislike him. His accomplices are worse.

Without its fabulous production team, *Moonraker* would probably rank as one of the worst Bonds ever. However, although these glittering jewels raise it a great deal they cannot, in themselves, boost it into orbit.

*The In-Laws*, on the other hand, is a delightfully zany comedy starring Peter Falk and Alan Arkin. Peter Falk plays a nut who may or may not be a CIA agent.

He nearly drives his future brother-in-law, Alan Arkin, insane when he drags this conservative dentist all over the countryside amid spraying bullets and pursuing US Treasury agents.

The film is funny from beginning to end jumping from one hilarious scene to the next. Falk and Arkin play their relative parts to perfection. Indeed it is hard to fault the movie at all except perhaps for some slightly repetitious humor. It is a definite must-see in terms of pure entertainment value.

Providing good brainless entertainment is an art in itself, a point which unfortunately few critics seem to realize. Last summer *Animal House* was dumped on by most critics above the college level for its tasteless humor and unsophisticated comedy. It seems that *Meatballs* will be this summer's target for critics out to prove that they are the last word on which comedy is funny and which isn't.

(Please see page 9)

**College Knowledge useless**

By Gordon R. Haff

The 13 — 30 Corporation, for those who haven't heard of it, is the brainchild of a young entrepreneur who made it when they buoyed up their marginally profitable college guides by the use of national advertising. Since then their business has blossomed, their latest feat being the takeover of *Esquire*. 13 — 30 Corporation's target is the young professional or professional-to-be in the age group from about 13 to 30, hence the name.

*College Knowledge* by Michael Edelfort was largely financed by the 13 — 30 Corporation. It shows. The book is poorly written while talking down to the very audience that it assumes to be reasonably intelligent.

The diversity of information in this almost 400 page book is staggering. It contains information on financial aid, how to take tests, how to deal with parents — in

short, almost everything the author thinks is necessary to know to get through college. Unfortunately, *College Knowledge* contains too little information and far too much verbal diarrhea. Many of the book's lists of addresses to write about this, that and the other thing are reasonably exhaustive and an entire book of them would have been very useful. Unfortunately, the author apparently concluded that such an approach would not let him spout off deep philosophy on everything connected with going to college.

Perhaps you can find enough useful information buried under all the fluff to make *College Knowledge* worth your money. I personally would not count on it, particularly since what information there is is poorly indexed and cross-referenced. I guess *College Knowledge* bears out the fact that guides are easy to write but very difficult to write well.



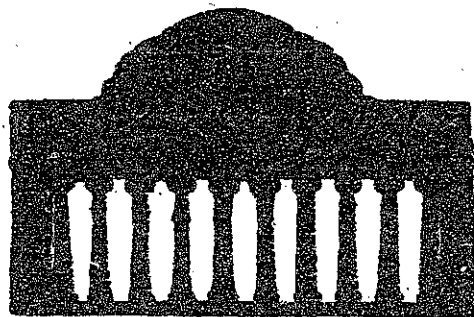
Count Dracula (Frank Langella) shies away from a crucifix.

**Seventh Annual MIT Black Student's Conference: Preliminary Program****'Black Excellence in Science and Business: Problems, Prospects, and Promises of the 1980s.'**

MIT, Cambridge, Mass.

Friday and Saturday,

September 14 and 15, 1979



Coordinated by the Student Planning Committee,

with the cooperation of Mary O. Hope,

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, MIT.

**Friday, September 14, 1979**

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon

Kresge Lobby

Conference Registration

Kresge Little Theater

High School Students' Conference  
Historical Presentation and Display:

"A Glimpse of African-American Contributions to the Development of Science and Technology"

Bush Room

MIT Alumni Workshop

3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium

Conference Opening  
GreetingsKeynote Speaker: Honorable  
Wallace D. Muhammad,  
Leader World Community of  
Al-Islam in the West

6:00 — 7:30 p.m.

Sala de Puerto Rico

Reception for Keynote  
Speaker

9:00 — 1:00 a.m. To Be Arranged

Conference Social: Alumni  
and Participants**Saturday, September 15, 1979**

9:00 — 11:30 a.m.

Student Center Lobby

Conference Registration II

West Lounge

Presentation: "Blacks in  
Science and Invention" —  
Professor Ronald Mickens,  
the Physics Department, Fisk  
University

10:00 — 11:30 a.m.

Mezzanine Lounge

National Society of Black  
Engineers Meeting

Room 400

Workshop: "Career Oppor-  
tunities in the 1980s"

Room 407

Workshop: "American  
Minorities in the International  
Market: Opportunities and  
Achievements"

12:00 noon — 2:00 p.m.

Sala de Puerto Rico

Conference Luncheon

Introduction of Keynote  
SpeakerKeynote Speaker: Dr. Ronald  
McNair, PhD. (MIT) CB  
Astronaut, Johnson Space  
Center, Houston, TX

2:30 — 4:30 p.m.

Room 473

Workshop: "Black Women in  
Science and Technology:  
Setting Goals and Getting to  
the Top"

Room 491

Workshop: "Problems,  
Prospects and Promises of  
Doing Business in the 1980s"

5:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Mezzanine Lounge

Conference Closing  
Workshop Summaries and  
Closing Remarks: workshop  
moderators and participants



# Magic Pan, Proud Popover reviewed

## The Proud Popover, Faneuil Hall, Boston

The Proud Popover is a quaint restaurant in the Quincy Market place featuring early American decor and cuisine. As the name indicates, the house specialty is popovers. Dishes from seafood to beef curry are served on fresh hot popovers. With every meal, a basket of steaming popovers is served with honey and fresh butter.

The atmosphere is rustic. You are greeted at the door by a hostess costumed as if this were an inn in the early eighteenth-century. You are escorted to an oaken table set with wooden chairs. Surrounding you are plank walls and high beamed ceilings. The dining room comes complete with a loft.

Service is prompt and usually courteous. Sometimes, however, it may take a while to receive your order from the kitchen.

Dinners on the weekends are in the \$7-\$10 price range. On Sundays the restaurant is open for brunch, with numerous specialties. Midweek prices are subject to a small change.

Grading on a scale of 1-5, the Proud Popover rates as follows:

**Food:** 3  
Although amply portioned, the food is often bland and sometimes it is not served warm enough.

**Service:** 4  
The waiters and waitresses were pleasant and usually efficient, but they are not truly outstanding.

**Atmosphere:** 4  
The decor is truly novel. Its furnishings tend to transport the patrons back in time. There is, unfortunately, a drawback inherent in this style. There is a distinct lack of carpeting, hence the acoustics are poor. This makes an intimate supper impossible.

## Price:

Although a meal in this price range is becoming "reasonable" these days they are a bit high for the typical college budget.

**Overall Rating:** 3.5  
(average of all scores)

I recommend this restaurant for those occasions on which you wish to impress a special someone, be that person a parent or friend. I come to this conclusion through consideration of the somewhat high price range for a student.

## The Magic Pan, Faneuil Hall, Boston

The Magic Pan is an attractive, often crowded restaurant on the second level in Faneuil Hall. The menu features crepes made into entrees such as the seafood crepe, and others that are made into desserts such as the Crepes Suzette. Also available are such favorites as quiche and

## salad.

The Magic Pan, unless quite crowded, has a reasonably quiet dining room area. The atmosphere is pleasant and accented with greenery, but there is nothing stunning in the decor.

The service is prompt and cheerful. A striking feature of the restaurant is that the patron is greeted with a smile. It is impossible to lose sight of grinning faces throughout your meal.

Prices are moderate verging on high for the college budget. Dinners are available in the \$7-\$9 price range. A la carte items can make the evening a bit less expensive providing that you are not terribly hungry. Grading on a scale of 1-5, the Magic Pan scores as follows:

**Food:** 3  
Although novel, the crepe fillings seem to be under seasoned and slightly under-

## portioned.

**Service:** 4  
The waiters and waitresses are alert and attentive even toward the close of a long shift.

**Atmosphere:** 3  
Pleasant enough, but nothing to write home about.

**Price:** 3  
Slightly high for the average student. You will find that you are paying more for the relatively unusual dishes rather than for the food itself.

**Overall Rating:** 3.25  
(average of all scores)

If you choose to come for a snack or a meal with your friends, be sure to sample the spinach souffle.

—By Jonathan Cohen

# Dracula, Moonraker not up to par

(Continued from page 8)

Bill Murray of *Saturday Night Live* fame is Tripper, the outrageous leader of the counselors-in-training at Camp Northstar in *Meatballs*. He tears up the camp rules and throws them in the trash "where you CIT's can look at them at the first opportunity." He masterminds plots to leave the head of the camp sleeping in the middle of the woods. However, for all this, he is also compassionate, something which was apparently overlooked by the reviewers who suggested that perhaps John Belushi (Blutarski in *Animal House*) might be better for the part. Tripper is not an animal like Blutarski.

True, many of the roles are stereotyped. There is a shy, depressed kid, a brat, a fat boy, and lots of cute, busty girls. Camp Mohawk, Camp Northstar's perennial

rival in intercamp sports contests, is a cliched bunch of All-American rich kid snobs. However, all these cliches and stereotypes do not really detract from the effect of the movie. In fact, they increase the familiarity of the characters.

*Meatballs* has been called a rip-off of *Animal House*. Is this really fair? I think not. The style is much the same. The humor is lowbrow and slapstick. In many ways, I think that this is perhaps the best for a summer entertainment film. However, to call *Meatballs* a poor clone is, I believe, to underestimate it.

In the final analysis, I cannot even directly compare *Animal House* and *Meatballs*. I am too familiar with the environment in which one is set relative to the other. They both serve their function, however, which is to be fun.

*The Muppet Movie* is another film which falls into the pure fun class. It is a hard type of movie to review — it lacks reference points. Even works of animation can be compared to other works of their type. The best that I can do is to judge *The Muppet Movie* relative to what it could have been.

The Muppets are cute and cleverly done. The cameos by such personalities as Steve Martin, Orson Welles, Richard Pryor, and Cloris Leachman are absolute gems. Perhaps most importantly, the film resists the temptation to become overly cute.

This summer has its share of entertainment in the movie house. Besides *Manhattan*, almost everything really worth seeing is light comedy, following along the trend of the last couple of years. Just don't listen to the publicity men too much.



Nobody can do it  
like McDonald's can™



## aerodynamically unsound

There are a lot of things that our hamburgers just aren't good for, we realize that. For instance, we know that our Quarter Pounder® will never break the land speed record at Bonneville. We can assure you that

Weight before cooking 4 oz.

our cheeseburger just won't make comfortable, therapeutic footwear; and we're quite certain that the Big Mac® if integrated with your component stereo system will not enhance the total sound quality.

So what are we trying to say? That our hamburgers are good for one thing, and that's you.

Buy One Quarter Pounder® or  
Quarter Pounder® with Cheese Sandwich  
(weight before cooking 4 oz., 113.4 grams),  
Get Another of the Same Sandwich

**FREE!** Offer good only at: McDonald's®  
463 Massachusetts Ave  
Cambridge  
Offer expires September 30, 1979

Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Mr. Operator: Return to above address for reimbursement. Redemption value 1/20¢. ©McDonald's Corporation 1979





## Commons controversy

To the Editor:

As the commons controversy has been brewing this spring, I have thought several times about adding some additional thoughts to the discussion. Now that the term is over, I have finally decided I can no longer resist the desire to put in my 2¢ worth. My perspective is that of the student member of the dining committee that recommended the abolition of mandatory commons in 1970 and also that of the dean who was the center of the last discussion on bringing back mandatory commons.

Over the years, the arguments pro and con have not changed much. Those against always attack a change back to mandatory commons as an effort to take away freedom and add, in righteous amazement, that commons isn't fit to eat anyway. Those for a mandatory meal plan point to social benefits, potential lower costs, and, once in a while, better nutrition for students.

The real problem in the discussion, as in almost all such discussions, is that both sides are right. It is hard to say that it really is in the best interests of students to force them to choose between living in a dorm with friends or moving in with strangers to have more flexibility and lower out of pocket costs for eating. On the other hand, there are real social benefits to sharing meals with more human companions than your 18.05 text. I have seen the changes in dorms since the end of mandatory commons, and there have been real losses in dorm cohesiveness since that happened. I have also seen far too many lonely students who do eat dinner with their textbooks for company. Although a mandatory plan will not make a difference for some people, MIT needs to make the atmosphere here one that helps people make friends, not one that tends to encourage shy people to become more shy.

Students are in a transition period in their lives. They are not always able to make the best decisions for themselves without some help. On the other hand, sometimes MIT offers rigid help in the form of strict rules that turn out to be no help at all.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument of the current committee is that all dorms cannot be all things to all people. It is a fact of life that people must make choices, some of which will be mutually exclusive choices. Part of the process of maturing is learning how to make choices that are right for you and understanding that there will always be limits within which you must live. I came from a generation of college students who spent most of our time wondering when the next friend would be forced into a career choice by Uncle Sam. The question of freedom that we worried about was one of life and death. Somehow, in the intensity of those issues, it seemed downright silly to force people to eat their supper with others if they did not want to. But I do not think our solution of throwing out rules and structure was necessarily a good one. There must be a middle ground. There must be a set of reasonable options for commons and cooking, which may contain some unpleasant choices, that will help the quality of life at MIT.

I hope that people on both sides of the issue will take a step back and listen to the other side. Both sides have something valuable to contribute to a solution.

Nancy J. Wheatley



## Graduate student tuition policy unfair

To the Editor:

Since tuition amounts to only one-third of MIT's annual budget, a popular belief is that students get more value out of their education than they actually pay for. Although I do not contest this belief, I protest the resulting inequities which this attitude helps to impose on a large proportion of the student body.

Although some undergraduates receive reduction in tuition when registering for a light load, most students pay a universal tuition. This is true even of graduate students not registered for any coursework. The inequity arises when one realizes that post-coursework graduate students

continue to contribute to the educational system which they use on a much smaller scale and therefore are in essence helping to finance the education of younger graduate students and undergraduates.

I have no objection to such a system in principle since, after all, it is not fundamentally different from taking out a loan. It can be considered a form of loan in the sense that one continues to pay tuition for several years beyond the completion of coursework presumably because the tuition one pays while taking classes is not sufficient to cover the cost. But if one takes the attitude that

post-coursework graduate students continue to pay full tuition to repay their "loan," then every undergraduate that terminates his formal education with a BS is in default on this "loan." The inequity is that the students who continue on bear the burden of those who do not.

I believe a more equitable policy would be to charge substantially less tuition of those graduate students no longer taking coursework. In view of the fact that tuition revenues amount to only about a third of MIT's budget, such a policy would have a proportionally small effect on MIT's financial position.

Thomas Stoughton G

# WRITING HOME TAKES TIME

When you get to MIT, your parents will start wanting to know what you are doing and what's going on around you. But with the coursework you'll be doing, and the sports, extracurricular activities, and new friends you'll become involved with, you may sometimes find even getting enough sleep difficult, and taking time to write home almost impossible. We can help. We can't tell your parents what you are doing, but we can inform them of what's going on around you. We're The Tech, and we've been telling people what's been happening at MIT for 99 years. If you (or they) take the time now to cut out, fill out, and mail the coupon, they can know what's happening

here twice a week for the whole school year

— without taking any more of your time.

**TheTech**

Return to:

The Tech

Attn: Circulation Manager

PO Box 29 - MIT Branch

Cambridge, MA 02139

(W20-483 by Institute Mail)

New: ☐ Renewal: ☐

US Mail - 1st Class: 1 year \$22 ☐ 2 years \$43 ☐

\$7 ☐ 2 years \$13 ☐

Foreign - Air Mail: 1 year \$100 ☐

Surface Mail: 1 year \$25 ☐

Institute Mail - 1 year \$4 ☐ 2 years \$7 ☐



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, July 24, 1979



# sports

## Women's sports still booming

By Gordon R. Haff

Women's sports continued to skyrocket over the past year.

The field hockey and softball teams' both in their second years as varsity sports continued to improve, and posted 4-6 records.

The Women's sailing squad just missed qualifying for the National Championships because of a protest filed on the last race.

Women's tennis was 3-6 in the fall and 1-3 in the spring.

Volleyball (3-11) was stung by the graduation of practically the entire team which had led them to three Massachusetts Championships in a row. However, this year's young team improved with every game.

Basketball finished 8-9 on the season while the women fencers went 12-5 on their way to a second place finish in the New England Championships. Michelle Prettyman captured a gold medal there and went on to the fencing nationals.

Although the gymnastic squads 1977-78 All-American Leslie Har-



(Photo by Gordon R. Haff)

ris did not perform as well this year, the team as a whole jumped from a losing record to 9-5.

The women swimmers, spurred on by Karen Klinecicz '82's numerous school records, completed the best season in the

history of women's swimming at MIT with an 8-1 record.

Finally, women's crew had a typically good record (6-2) and won the Petite Finals of the Eastern Sprint Championship Regatta.

## 1978-79: a banner year for MIT sports

(Continued from page 12)

believe, occurred in either the last second of play or after the whistle blew. The MIT team also traveled to California for a week to practice with and match skills with several Western teams.

In the winter, Basketball staged a repeat of its dismal 5-13 record of last year with a 5-17 tally this season.

Fencing also staged a repeat of the previous season, in fact of the previous ten, by winning the New England Intercollegiate Championship. Nationally, Captain John Rodrigues took Ninth place in Epee while Eric DeBeus '82 captured 15th in foil.

Gymnastics finished 3-5 while the hockey club's record dropped slightly from last year's winning record to 8-9. Hockey at MIT has been a club sport meaning that graduate students can play squad went 0-37 over a three year period as a varsity team.

The varsity pistol team continued its performance as MIT's most impressive squad. First in the Greater Boston Pistol League, the squad was fourth in the nation behind Army, Navy, and Air Force. David Miller '79 and Dave Schaller G were both awarded All-American honors.

Rifle (17-8) placed first in the Vermont State Championships in Air Rifle.

Skiing completed its season with a fifth place finish in the Division II Championships. Senior co-captain Tom Stevens won the Division II Championships in jumping.

Squash sported a 10-13 record with its number one man defeating both Harvard's number one, a four time All-American, and Army's number one for the first time in Ed Crocker's 23 years of coaching at MIT.

Swimming's best season in ten years was highlighted by an eighth place finish in the New England Championships. All-American captain Preston Vorlicek '79 took an eighth place finish in the Nationals.

Jason Tong '79 led the Indoor track team to a 5-4-1 record and freshman Jeff Lukas set a new 880 yard record of 1:58.1.

To cap off the winter sports, Bruce Wrobel '79 led the Wrestling Team to fifth place in the New England Championships. Wrobel placed second in the 190 lb. class.

The spring sports did the poorest of the bunch although they too had their high points. Sailing had one of its best seasons in years and qualified for all three major North American Championships for the first time ever.

After a slow start lacrosse ended up 8-4, winning eight of their last nine games. Golf also finished over .500 with an 8-2 record in the spring to offset its 0-5 performance in the fall.

Outdoor track completed its season 3-2 paced by distance man Barry Bayus '79.

However, two of the big spring sports, Baseball and Crew, had losing records, as did Tennis.

## Clubs supplement varsity program

By Gordon R. Haff

One of the major events on the MIT sports scene during the past year was the formation of a football club. MIT's last full-fledged squad had been disbanded in 1901. (There was a half-hearted effort in the 1940's which never really got off the ground.)

Whether this one can keep going over a long period of time remains to be seen. However, the immediate future looks good. The team had enormous fan support last year despite a winless season. This year the club will have two full-time and two part-time coaches and the athletic department is supporting them all the way despite some initial reservations, particularly on the part of Ross Smith, the Director of Athletics.

The Major problem which football will face compared to teams at other schools is that the MIT team cannot monopolize either the MIT sports budget or athletic field space. Even now, football is receiving more coaching than any other club sport, and only hockey is getting more money. This may be necessary to support a football team, but the Rugby Club has already complained about the tearing up of their game field for football practice.

In addition to football and hockey there are many other club sports. These clubs come in all varieties and sizes. The Rugby Club, is the oldest such club in New England, although the club has had poor records the last couple of years. It once won the New England Championships.

A Water Skiing Club, formed just last year, promptly placed third in the Northeast Intercol-

legiate Championships. In addition there is a men's volleyball club and a graduate soccer club.

While men's clubs have grown in numbers over the past few years, the women's clubs have boomed. Many of the more successful clubs go on to be given varsity status. Softball, field hockey, basketball, and gymnastics are all clubs which became varsity sports teams within the last few years.

The remaining clubs vary in organization and membership. This past year a Women's Track Club was started up with only a

few people. However, its members hope that with increased publicity more women will be attracted next year. Women's Rugby is a relatively big draw even though it is only a couple of years old and Cross-Country, which has proven very successful, will probably be the next club to go varsity.

In short, a club sport can be started up with just a few people. If its participants are enthusiastic and they get publicity organized, they will usually find that people around MIT are interested in playing just about anything.

# AIR FORCE ROTC

## The facts of the matter.

With something as important as your future being discussed, it's very urgent that you get and understand all the facts. Air Force ROTC can be an important part of your future, and we'd like to take this opportunity to outline some of the main facts of that matter and invite you to look further into the subject.

The U.S. Air Force needs highly qualified dedicated officers. Both men and women, and we need people in all kinds of educational disciplines. Air Force ROTC offers 4-year, 3-year and 2-year scholarships with \$100 monthly tax-free allowance, and contrary to what some people think, there is no military obligation during the first two years of the Air Force ROTC.

Upon college graduation you'll receive a commission in the U.S. Air Force and the opportunity to compete for a challenging job with advanced educational opportunities.

Let's get together and discuss Air Force ROTC further. We'll give you all the facts and clear up the fictions. It could be one of the most important talks you've ever had with anyone.

Room 20E-111

Phone 253-4472

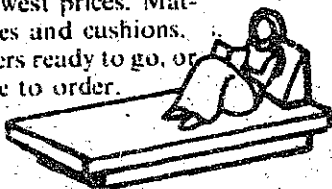
## Air Force ROTC

### Gateway to a Great Way of Life

**PLATFORM BEDS**  
Solid Mahogany Trim  
Easy assembly -  
no tools required.

From \$79.95

Complete line of foam  
at lowest prices. Mat-  
tresses and cushions.  
Covers ready to go, or  
made to order.

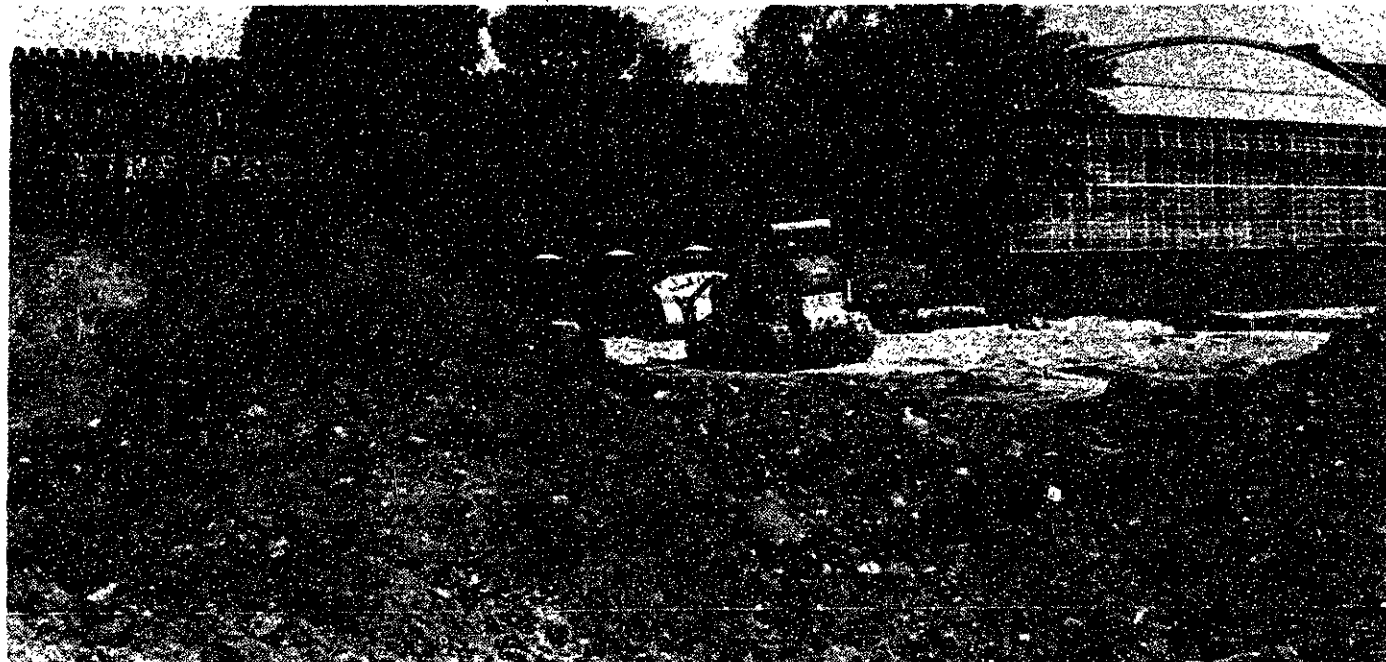


FOAM RUBBER  
DISCOUNT CENTER  
165 Brighton Ave., Allston, Ma.  
254-4819



# sports

## Sport center work begins



Construction of the new indoor sports complex began this summer with the removal of the outdoor rink. (Photo by Gordon R. Haff)

By Gordon R. Haff

Construction has finally begun on the first phase of a new athletic center for MIT. A two level structure with a new ice rink/special events center on the lower level and a synthetic track/basketball courts/tennis courts on the upper level is now being built on Briggs Field.

The ice rink on the first level will be open from mid-October to mid-March according to Ross Smith Director of Athletics. Seating for ice hockey will be about 1500. During the off-season, the first level will be used as a special events center with seating set at about 4500. Team locker rooms are also included in the plan. There will be no lockers for the MIT Community at large although the addition of lockers to the ice rink will free up space in Briggs Field House which will stay intact during this phase of expansion.

The second level of the new building will consist of a synthetic track and infield. The track infield will be readily convertible between track events, winter team practice, tennis courts, and basketball courts. The basketball courts will be used primarily for intramurals.

In addition to the construction of the new

building, a number of minor improvements will be made to the existing facilities next summer. Rockwell Cage will be recindered and moveable bleachers with a seating capacity of at least 1100 will be installed in DuPont gymnasium. This will provide seating for varsity basketball which will be moved to DuPont from Rockwell Cage and for gymnastics which presently has no real seating arrangements.

According to Smith, the final cost for Phase I will be "in excess of eight million although they are still negotiating." Since this is more than the original allocation for the building, Smith said "cutting out some frills" was necessary but no major changes were made.

Since the old Geiger Memorial Rink was torn down in order to begin construction, there will be no hockey rink at MIT next hockey season. According to *Tech Talk* the construction will be completed by the fall of 1980. However, one high source speculated that completion before the 1980-81 winter is unlikely since the beginning of construction was delayed two months. The delay was partly caused by planning office delays and partly caused by negotiations concerning the final bid.

## MIT's 21 sports is record

By Gordon R. Haff

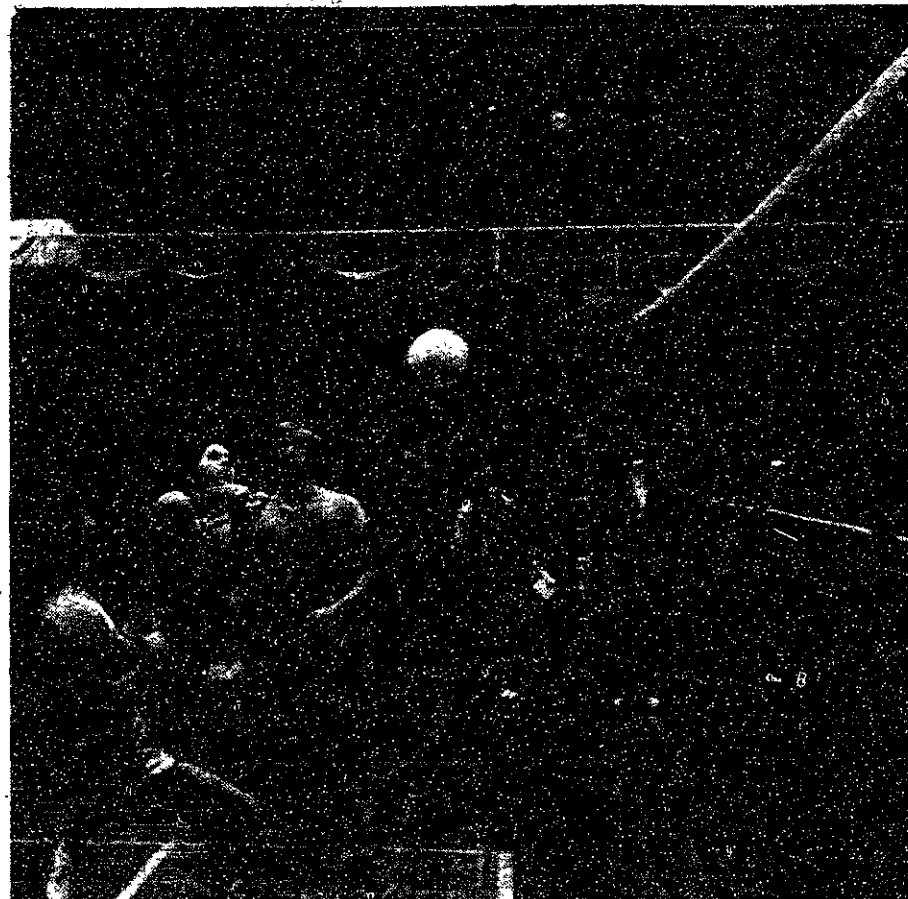
MIT has the greatest number of varsity teams of any college in the country. However, even people who know this are often surprised to learn that many of these teams do well on the local level or even on the regional or national level.

In the fall Cross Country (6-2), paced by Barry Bayus '79, finished third in the Easterns and sixth in the NCAA Qualifying Meet, thereby just missing a trip to the Nationals.

Soccer's 500 season was highlighted by its first win over traditional rival Harvard in 15 years. In addition, the team defeated Brandeis 3-0 in an exciting win and placed Bob Currier '79 on the Greater Boston All-Star squad for the third consecutive year.

Water Polo finished third in New England for the second consecutive year. The team lost out to Yale during the New England Championships when Yale scored in the fifth overtime period in one of the longest games in New England history. The game went into overtime following a disputed goal by Yale which depending upon whom you

(Please turn to page 11)



(Photo by Gordon R. Haff)

## Intramurals provide participation for all

By Gordon R. Haff

An estimated 75 percent of the MIT student sports body participates in intramural sports. The most popular sport is usually softball followed closely by football. However, like club sports, it takes very little to start up a new sport — the only serious problem being facilities space. Last year saw an Ultimate Frisbee league initiated and Fencing recognized by the governing IM Council (It was run the previous year by the Fencing Team).

IM's did run into some snags this year, however; some because of the increasing number of participants and some because of the attitude of certain participants toward the program.

Last fall the organizers of class day, an all day intramural crew regatta, effectively curtailed participation through a number of rules and regulations related to registration of oarsmen and the use of experienced coxswains. This was necessary because of the large number

Everyone should get involved in the sports program here even if its only to the point of playing occasionally on one or two IM teams. And if you want to be more active there is plenty of opportunity for that. Many people play varsity team sports.

Finally, although the MIT sports program is participation oriented, remember that the intercollegiate teams, both varsity and club, like to get some support. No matter where you are living there are probably people you know participating on these teams. Go out and cheer them every now and then.

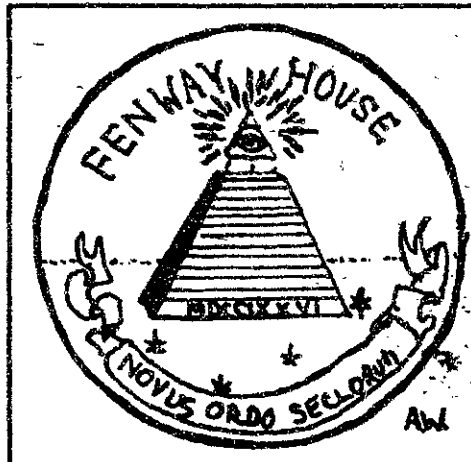
And remember, don't be surprised if you yourself turn out to be good at one of those sports you had never even heard of in high school — many of MIT's All-Americans never played their sport before coming here.



(Photo by Brad Albom)

of participants and some related accidents the previous year. The organizers promised to organize something in the spring which would allow a greater number of participants but nothing ever happened.

IM's continued to have trouble finding managers. Despite the large number of students who play intramurals, apparently very few want to help see that they run smoothly. The problem of running the program was further compounded this year when referees became harder and harder to come by in many sports despite pay raises. This was in part because of numerous incidents of referee abuse, particularly in basketball. However, when the new IM Council officers stepped in in mid-winter they cracked down on the problem and suspended for one year a basketball player who threatened an official. PE refereeing classes were also initiated to increase the numbers of officials. Attendance was disappointing this past year. Increased exposure may solve this problem.



### Welcome Students

Metropolitan Baptist Church  
Southern Baptist Convention  
16 Beech Street, Cambridge  
Morning Worship 11am  
Tel. 868-3261 for information



new low  
prices at

the  
Coop

MIT STUDENT CENTER

HEWLETT  PACKARD

series E scientifics

HP 31 E 46.98

Mathematical and scientific functions with four storage registers.

HP 32 E 64.98

All the features of the 31E plus statistical functions and 15 storage registers.

HP 33 E 83.98

49 step programmable scientific calculator with 8 storage registers and subroutines.

the Coop Calculator Center —  
where the professionals shop —  
your headquarters for H-P calculators  
and accessories